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BIOGRAPHY

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SAMUEL M. D. CLARK

RUDOLPH MATAS, M.D., F.A.C.S., NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

BY birth, inheritance, education, and lifelong residence in his native state, Samuel Marmaduke Dinwiddie Clark was a thorough Louisianian. He was born at Devall, West Baton Rouge, on his father's plantation, on July 28, 1875, and was approaching his fiftieth birthday when his career of great activity and usefulness was abruptly brought to a close by the fatal illness (diabetes, cardiovascular disease), which ended April 26, 1925.

Death came at a time when the splendid promise of his early years was being fulfilled and he was reaping the reward of a life of brilliant and constant service to his people, to his profession, and to the institutions with which he was connected.

His father was William Lobdell Clark, of Clarkland Plantation, Louisiana; his mother, Mary Elizabeth Devall, of Smithfield Plantation, West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, and he inherited from each the qualities which were so distinctive of his character and personality. Like the sons of most planters of the last generation, his early education was entrusted to private tutors. He was graduated from the Louisiana State University in 1895 with the degree of B.Sc., after having been captain in the cadet corps during his senior year. In the fall of the same year he entered the School of Medicine of Tulane University and served as undergraduate interne at the Touro Infirmary in 1897. He was also an interne at the Charity Hospital from 1898 to 1900, and was graduated M.D., Tulane, in 1900.

In 1903, he was appointed assistant demonstrator of operative surgery under Professor Gessner in the Miles Laboratory of the Tulane School of Medicine. In 1904–1905 he was chief of clinic for Professor Lewis at the Charity Hospital, and in 1905 he was appointed lecturer and clinical instructor in gynecology and obstetrics. In the interim he was secretary of the Orleans Parish Medical Society and of the Charity Hospital Alumni Association of Louisiana. In 1907, he was elected assistant professor of gynecology in the School of Medicine under Professor Lewis. On the retirement of Professor Lewis, in 1911, his chair was divided, Dr. Clark succeeding him as full professor of gynecology and clinical obstetrics, and Dr. C. J. Miller, likewise, as professor of obstetrics and clinical gynecology. From 1911 to 1925, fourteen years, Dr. Clark served uninterruptedly as the effi-

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cient head of the department of gynecology. Joined to his professorship in the medical school he taught and practiced at the Charity Hospital as visiting gynecologist of that institution and later became a member of the staff of Touro Infirmary in a similar capacity, continuing in both of these positions to the time of his death.

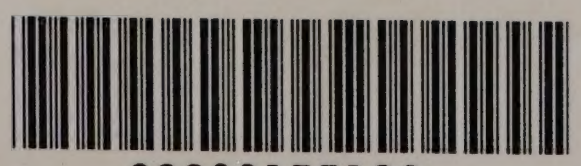
In addition to his active and conspicuous membership in the Orleans Parish, Louisiana State and American Medical Associations, Dr. Clark was a Fellow of the Southern Surgical Association (Vice-president, 1915), of the American Gynecological Society, the Southern Medical Association, and of the American College of Surgeons. In all of these he was a prominent figure, participating most actively in all their proceedings and contributing valuable papers and discussions.

During the World War, Dr. Clark was appointed Major in the Medical Corps and the first chairman of the medical section of the Council of National Defense in Louisiana. He was among the first surgeons to join the medical reserve corps and was assigned by the Surgeon-General to the special and important duty of inspecting the base hospitals in the cantonments. Selection for this delicate and difficult task was in recognition of his wise knowledge of operative surgery, hospital organization, and early training as a military cadet. When his tour of inspection had been completed he was again detailed for special duty overseas with the expeditionary forces in France, where he also rendered valuable service.

Dr. Clark found time amid his large professional interests to participate in the social life of the metropolis. He was a Mason, a member of the Boston Club, Audubon Golf Club, New Orleans Club, and Kappa Sigma and Phi Chi Fraternities, in all of which he was a prominent and highly esteemed member. He was passionately devoted to the outdoor life, and golf claimed his presence on the links whenever he could spare a moment to indulge in his favorite exercise.

In 1902, he married Miss Elise Cockerham, prominent in the social life of Natchitoches, who survives him. He is also survived by a sister, Mrs. Walker B. Spencer, and a brother, W. L. Clark, both of New Orleans.

Though not a voluminous writer, Dr. Clark contributed a number of very valuable and impressive papers to the medical press and to the *Transactions* of the societies of which he was a member. He wrote on subjects that especially interested him and which attest to his unusually clear and eminently practical judgment, his skill as an operator, his vigorous and progressive tendencies, and his broad learning in the literature of his profession. His papers on "Cesarean Section," "Treatment of Carcinoma of the Uterus," "Pelvic Infections," "Endometrial Transplantations," "Surgical Treatment of Visceroptosis," "Radium," etc., are merely cited among many other contributions to show his wide and varied interest in his specialty. He was always a ready, forceful, pleasing speaker in all matters that interested him or that concerned his province. The frequent invitations that he received to address the various parish and district medical societies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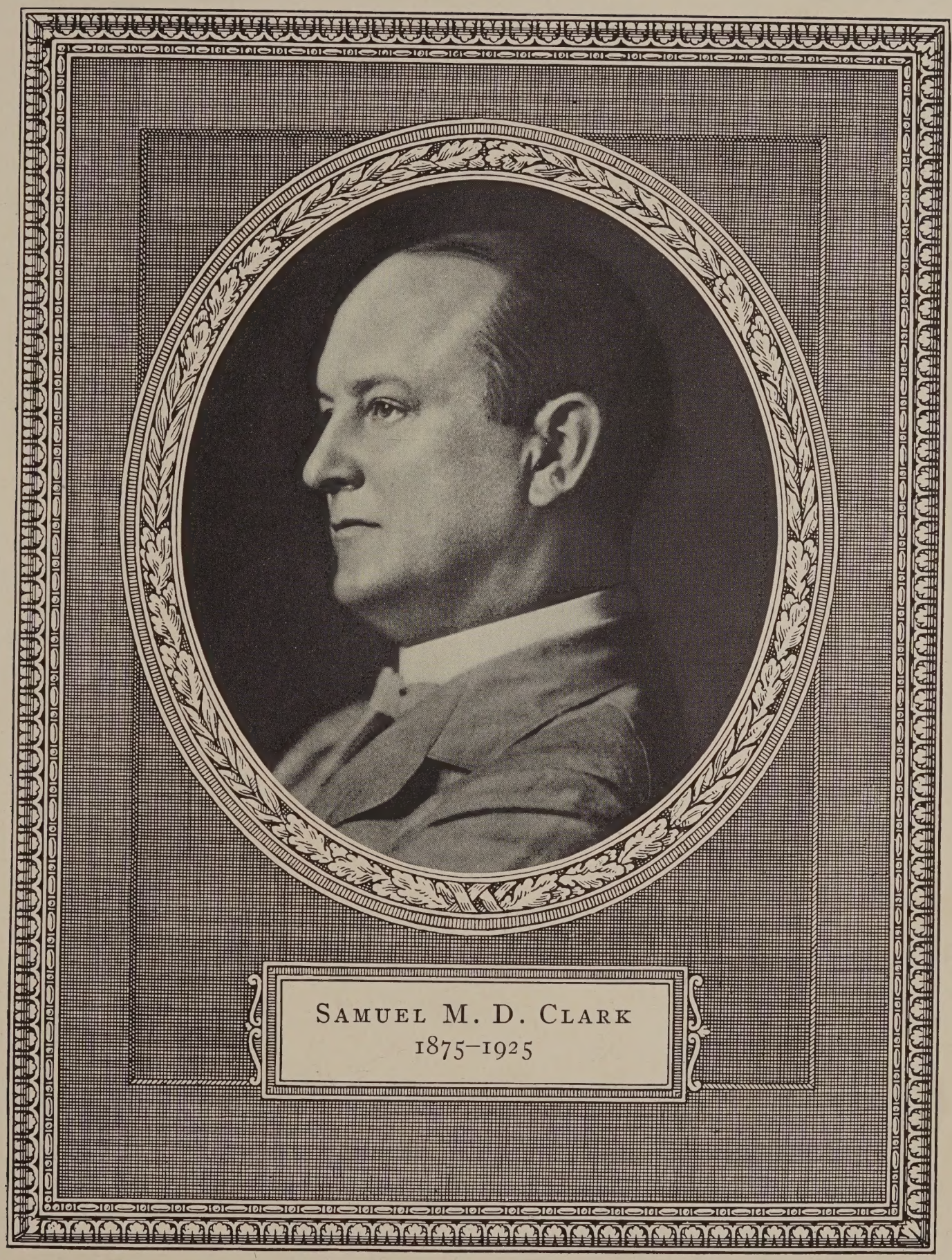

SAMUEL M. D. CLARK
1875–1925

of Louisiana and of the surrounding states are proof of the merit and weight attached by his colleagues to his discussions and of the appreciation in which he was held by the profession throughout the country.

While intensely interested in his work and giving his best thought and energy to the discharge of his duties, whether in the classroom, at the operating table, or at the bedside, he was capable of the fullest relaxation and enjoyment of the amenities of life when the tension of his immediate task was over. Dr. Clark's popularity as a club man, with his students and in all social gatherings, in and out of the profession, is easily accounted for by his many lovable traits and genial characteristics. Physically endowed with a very attractive and approachable personality, he possessed an unusual inborn capacity for captivating friends and entwining himself in the affections, not only of his patients, of his students, and of his associates, but of all the men and women with whom he came in contact. Of graceful manner and speech, he was delightful as a *raconteur* and always a charming companion on any occasion. Though playful and wonderfully adaptable to any environment into which he might be thrown, he was none the less very firm and determined in his opinions and convictions. Though seemingly docile, even shy and unobtrusive, he was thoroughly conscious of his rights, and whenever these were trespassed, or he suspected that they were trifled with, he was sure to assert himself in a way that left no room for cavil or doubt. He was every inch a man, strong in his likes and dislikes. While he had long schooled himself to control his emotions and reactions, he was quite frank and always dependable in whichever direction he was led by his convictions. It was the charm of his personality and the virile quality so dominant in his composition which contributed largely to his popularity and to the tenacity and loyalty in which he held his friendships.

In closing this very inadequate sketch of Dr. Clark's distinguished career, reference should be made to the memorial resolutions adopted by the Faculty of the Medical School of Tulane University, which testify in feeling terms to the distinction that he gave to his department during the twenty-two years that he served and taught in his Alma Mater, to the affection in which he was held by his pupils and fellow workers, and to the great void caused in the school by his untimely loss.

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